

## **REMARKS**

Claim 13, as amended, and claims 14-17 are pending in the instant application. Claims 1-12 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Support for the amendments to the claims can be found in the specification at, for example, page 16, lines 13-16; page 27, lines 18-21; page 37, lines 1-2; and page 39, lines 4-7. No new matter has been added as a result of the above-described amendments. The rejections set forth in the Office Action have been overcome by amendment or are traversed by argument below.

### **1. Rejection of claims 13-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 112**

Claims 13-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly not complying with the written description requirement. Applicants contend that the claims as originally presented or as amended satisfy the written description requirement.

Claim 13 has been amended to recite that “neither X<sup>1</sup> nor X<sup>2</sup> is naturally occurring.” The specification teaches that the compositions of the invention have the activity of naturally occurring proteins, but are not the naturally occurring proteins. For example, on pages 12 and 13, Applicants describe binding activity of AGP-3, APRIL, and BCMA as “modulation of cell growth, survival, or activation resulting from binding by *natural*” AGP-3, APRIL, or BCMA to targets in a cell. Support for this limitation can also be found in the specification at, for example, page 16, lines 13-16; page 27, lines 18-21; page 37, lines 1-2; and page 39, lines 4-7. Consequently, Applicants contend that claim 13 as amended does not read on *denatured* consensus regions of TACI, BCMA, and the TACI/BCMA extracellular consensus regions.

Applicants contend that claim 13 as amended and claims 14-17, which depend thereon, comply with requirements of 35 USC §112, first paragraph, and respectfully request this ground of rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph as allegedly not enabled for the use of denatured consensus regions of TACI, BCMA, and TACI/BCMA extracellular consensus regions. As discussed above, claim 13 as amended does not read on denatured consensus regions of TACI, BCMA, and the TACI/BCMA extracellular consensus regions, thereby rendering this rejection moot. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request this ground of rejection be withdrawn.

### **CONCLUSIONS**

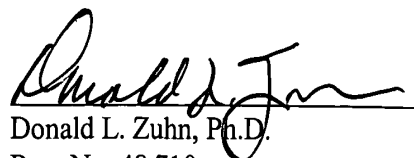
Applicants respectfully contend that all conditions of patentability are met in the pending claims as amended. Allowance of the claims is thereby respectfully solicited.

If Examiner Canella believes it to be helpful, she is invited to contact the undersigned representative by telephone at 312-913-0001.

Respectfully submitted,  
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